

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

February 6, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Trey Gooch
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Steve Sandlin
Commissioner Robert Stevens
Commissioner Adam Coggin, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess	Rhonda Allen
Sonya Stephenson	Steve Daniel
Nate Schott	Bill Jones
John Morris	Jo Morris
Brian Robertson	Kathy Jones
Ivy Hogan	Butch Jones
Keith Bratcher	Jim Baker
Becky Shelton	

Chairman Coggin presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with six members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Gooch moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL VACANCY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND HEALTH, EDUCATION & FACILITIES BOARD TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF JOHN C. JONES, JR.:

The Committee was advised applications had been received from William S. (Bill) Jones, Larry K. McElroy, J.S. "Steve" Daniel and Nate Schott for appointment to the Industrial Development Board and Health, Education & Facilities Board to fill the unexpired term of John C. Jones, Jr. which expires August, 2013. The applicants in attendance addressed the Committee. Commissioner J. Jordan advised all the applicants were the type of people the County wants to see involved.

"Commissioner J. Jordan moved to send the appointment to the Commission without a Committee recommendation for a nomination from the floor and a decision by the full Commission. The motion failed for lack of a second."

Commissioner Sandlin advised he could not second the motion because the Committee would not be doing its job and the Committee needed to make a decision advising nominations can still be brought from the Commission floor. Commissioner Sandlin commended John Jones for his service on the Board.

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to nominate all four applicants and vote for one. Commissioner J. Jordan moved to amend the original motion to vote for the three applicants that applied and got their applications in by the deadline. The amendment failed for lack of a second."

Chairman Coggin advised that although there is a statement on the application that applications must be received one week prior to the Steering Committee meeting he did not know that it was an official rule and applications have been taken in the past after the deadline. Commissioner J. Jordan advised he wanted clarification of the vote and number of votes to be taken. Chairman Coggin advised three votes is a majority.

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, in a tie situation to send the tied applicants to the Commission with one vote by the Committee. This motion passed by acclamation."

"Following roll call vote, Dr. Nate Schott will be recommended for appointment to the Industrial Development Board and

Health, Education & Facilities Board to fill the unexpired term of John C. Jones, Jr. to expire August, 2013 with Commissioners Black, Gooch, Sandlin, Stevens and Coggin voting for Schott and Commissioner J. Jordan voting for Jones."

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF DAVIDSON, RUTHERFORD, WILSON AND TROUSDALE COUNTIES REGARDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

The Committee was provided a proposed Consortium Agreement with Davidson, Wilson and Trousdale Counties dealing with workforce development and training advising similar agreements have been approved previously. The agreement is for a five year term and is required by State law. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to approve the Consortium Agreement by and between the Chief Elected Officials of Davidson, Rutherford, Wilson and Trousdale Counties. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

Brian Robertson and Sonya Stephenson reminded the Committee the social media policy had previously been provided for review. Mr. Robertson advised the policy would be an evolutionary document as technology evolves. The policy will be incorporated in the employee personnel policy. Ms. Stephenson advised the policy is proactive. Mr. Robertson advised the policy applies to employees and not the official website of the County. Ms. Stephenson advised the policy would not apply to Commissioner posts.

Commissioner Stevens advised he felt employees, vendors and volunteers should be better defined and he wanted to review the document more in depth with potential suggestions at the Commission as he had some First Amendment violation concerns. Mayor Burgess advised he preferred Commissioner Stevens, Mr. Robertson and Ms. Stephenson, as well as any others, take one on one time to review the policy. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Stevens moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to defer the issue of the Social Media policy one more month. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

PRESENTATION BY RHONDA ALLEN ON ROAD BOARD AND SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS:

Commissioner Rhonda Allen addressed the Committee providing a map of the current Road Board and School Board zones showing municipality lines and a memo setting forth the problem of the existing Road and School Board zones failing to meet basic apportionment principles of compactness, contiguity, respect for political boundaries (city limits) and shared communities of interest and a request to appoint a new committee to study the Road and School Board zones to determine if a better alignment exists. Commissioner Allen advised she felt the process as to the Road Board and School Board zones was rushed but this could be addressed at anytime. She was not asking to address Commission districts and in following incumbency for Commissioners it had been felt the Road Board and School Board could not be handled differently and she was requesting a Committee be established to study the issue and provided a suggested make up.

Commissioner J. Jordan advised the island that exists is not illegal. He advised although not promising anything, the Redistricting Committee did indicate the issue of the Road Board and School Board zones would be looked into pretty soon. Commissioner J. Jordan advised he does have a problem with solving a problem he is not sure is a problem.

Commissioner Allen advised a Committee needs to look at a future phase in date so current incumbents can serve their full terms and any changes may need to be in place by 2018. Commissioner Allen advised there is no harm in listening to the citizens of LaVergne.

"Commissioner Stevens moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to establish a Committee to include at least one member from the Road Board, School Board and County Commission for a total of three elected officials making application to the Steering Committee; ask the Mayors of LaVergne, Eagleville, Smyrna and Murfreesboro to recommend one citizen (non-office holder) from their respective communities to serve on the Committee for a total of four municipal citizens; accept applications at the Steering Committee from two citizens who reside in the unincorporated areas of Rutherford County for a total Committee make up of nine members. A representative from Rutherford County OIT staff (for GIS purposes) and the County Attorney's Office will attend the meetings and work sessions to serve as resources for this Committee with the Election Administrator or her designated representative in an advisory position to also attend meetings. The Committee will be appointed as soon as possible allowing for sufficient legal notice. The Committee will elect their own Chairman at the first meeting who will give monthly progress reports to the full Commission until such time when a recommendation is made by this Committee. The Committee will make a recommendation to the full Commission within six months from the date of their first meeting."

The Committee was advised Commissioner Shafer had also provided a proposed make up for any Committee set up.

Commissioner Sandlin advised the incumbency issue should not be taken lightly and this is the reason the Redistricting Committee ask if anyone had decided not to run again. He felt the Road Board and School Board members should be treated like Commissioners as to incumbency. Commissioner Sandlin advised he was not prepared to vote and requested the issue be deferred a month. Additionally, if the Committee is established he suggested keeping the current Redistricting Committee but add a Road Board and School Board member.

Commissioner Gooch advised there appears there could be voter confusion with phasing in any changes and then beginning the redistricting process again in two years. Commissioner Allen advised the next Redistricting Committee may not honor incumbency.

Mayor Burgess ask for the name of the Committee and Road Board and School Board Zones Study Committee was suggested. Mayor Burgess questioned if the Committee makes no recommendation within six months is its responsibility over and Commissioner Allen advised its recommendation can be no recommendation determined.

Commissioner J. Jordan advised for the Redistricting Committee the State had required the Election Administrator be on the Committee and there is no such mandate for this Committee. Mayor Burgess advised the Election Administrator would be very helpful and may need to be advisory to this Committee. Commissioner Allen advised the Committee may have no recommendations for the 2018 elections but may have suggestions for the 2020 Redistricting Committee.

Keith Bratcher representing the Road Board advised he was not in opposition to the Committee and thought the issue should be reviewed but he would like to see the same number of representatives from the unincorporated area as the municipalities have.

Mayor Burgess advised the Redistricting Committee had a lot of parameters from the State and he questioned if guidelines for the Committee to study should be provided. Commissioner Allen advised the Committee should understand the one man/one vote policy and also needed to understand the foundation of the work to date.

Commissioner Sandlin advised the Election Administrator needed to be involved but this is a big election year and he suggested putting the issue off thirty days to get issues resolved including making sure the municipality mayors were OK with this as well as the Road Board and School Board.

The issues were determined to be the number of members of the Committee, the name of the Committee, attendance of the Election Administrator in an advisory role and foundation documents.

Mayor Burgess advised the same parameters may not work for both the School Board and Road Board.

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to amend the original motion to defer the issue to the next Steering meeting. This motion passed by roll call vote with Commissioners Black, Gooch, J. Jordan, Sandlin and Coggin voting "yes" and Commissioner Stevens voting "no"."

DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:

Commissioner J. Jordan advised the issue of the deadline for submission of appointment applications needed to be addressed. Mayor Burgess advised his office had been unable to find any written policy or action by the Commission regarding application submission deadlines. Commissioner J. Jordan advised he wanted to clarify use of the deadline as the County Mayor's Office staff had advised when ask about applying "It is after the deadline". Mayor Burgess advised anyone can be nominated from the Commission floor. Commissioner J. Jordan advised a written policy was needed to be followed as this has put the Mayor's staff in a difficult position with the wording on the application.

Commissioner Sandlin advised although the applications were received the week before the Steering Committee meeting, they were not all received more than seven days before the meeting. Commissioner J. Jordan advised since documents were now sent electronically a week may not be needed.

It was the consensus of the Committee, for this matter to be placed on the April agenda with advice from the County Attorney on what can be done from the Commission floor as to nominations without an application as well as the statement on the application for appointment that applications must be received one week prior to Steering meeting.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Coggin declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

ADAM COGGIN, Chairman